

10/539541

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Peter Bauer et al

Application Number: Unassigned

Filing Date: Concurrently Herewith

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

Title: REFRIGERATOR AND DOOR FOR A REFRIGERATOR

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98, I am submitting a completed "INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS" (*Form PTO/SB/08A*) with patents and/or publications as delineated therein attached.

JP11351734 discloses that, on a peripheral edge part 10 of a rectangular door, are fixed respective pairs of vertical and horizontal gaskets 2A and 2B having on both ends a diagonally cut inclined end face 5 comprising a hollow seal part 3 with both ends being opened and a fixed part in such a manner as to cause the inclined end face 5 of the vertical and horizontal gaskets to butt against each other. The butted end part of the vertical and horizontal gaskets 2A and 2B are connected by fitting a vertical and horizontal half bodies 6A and 6B of an L-shaped connecting member 6 in these hollow seal parts 3.

JP10009761 discloses an end piece 5 overlaps a flange 12 of the door inner plate 4, and an end flange 3 of a door outer plate 2 is fitted in a connecting groove 6 of the end piece 5. The fitting direction of the door outer plate 2 in the end piece 5 is almost the same as the direction of the depth of a door. An easily-deformable place (reinforced part 8) of the end piece 5 has a double-wall construction and a surface 5a of the end piece 5 is prevented from directly receiving heat and foaming pressure when foam insulation is filled. The hollow part inside the reinforced part 8 is forcibly formed by blowing gas into the hollow part during injection molding. Thereby, the weight can be reduced and an inexpensive door for a refrigerator can be obtained.

JP48032348 – English translation not readily available.

JP8121946 discloses that in a refrigerator door wherein its side face part is bent in such a manner that it assumes a nearly U-shaped cross section, its upper and lower parts are

continuously formed extending over a front face plate 2a and a side face plate 2b, an end piece is attached by using a 5-20mm flange part 3 of an outer plate 2 and a foam heat insulating material is thereafter filled, the end piece is given a plate-like shape to hide only the flange surface. Along the line of the flange part 3 matching with a corner part 2d on the opposite side where the front face plate 2a and the side face plate 2b of the outer plate 2 join, the door plate is bent inwardly to form a bent part 3a by smoothly curving the surface consisting of one bent face.

JP5026569 discloses a stepped part 6a is formed at an outer circumference of an outer frame 6, and a depth of the step part 6a is made substantially equal to a plate thickness of an outer frame 5. The outer frame 6 filled with foam thermal insulating agent 8 and an outer frame 5 of a door surface member of synthetic resin layered plate are melted and adhered to each other by ultrasonic waves. Since the outer frame 5 of synthetic resin and the outer frame 6 of synthetic resin are integrally assembled by an ultrasonic melting process, there is no peeling at a melted interface part caused by a thermal shrinkage and further there is no projection toward the door and so a door rich in flatness feeling can be obtained.

DE4404229 discloses a refrigerating appliance, in particular a domestic appliance, comprising a cabinet and at least one door. The main feature of the appliance described consists in the fact that it possesses a plurality of operating and/or information elements on the door, while the corresponding electrical equipment is accommodated in the appliance cabinet.

If no translation of pertinent portions of any foreign language patents or publications mentioned within the "INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS" is included with the aforementioned copies of those applications, patents and/or publications, it is because no existing translation is readily available to the Applicants. As per the Notice in 1273 OG 55 (August 5, 2003) no copies of any above-mentioned US patents and US patent application publications are submitted for this application which was filed after June 30, 2003.

Respectfully submitted


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June 16, 2005

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Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

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First Named Inventor	Peter Bauer et al
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Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number	2002P01555WOUS
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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY			
		JP 11351734	12-24-1999	Showa Alum Corp.		
		JP 10009761	01-16-1998	Hitachi Ltd.		
		JP 48032348	04-28-1973	Anonymous		
		JP 08121946	05-17-1996	Hitachi Ltd.		
		JP 05026569	02-02-1993	Matsuchita Refrig. Co.		
		GB 699006	10-28-1953	Hans Stierlin		✓

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ ~Number ⁴ ~Kind Code ⁵ (<i>if known</i>)				
		DE 44 04 229	08-18-1994	Piero Mariani		
		International Search Report for PCT/EP2003/013720				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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